The subject was also discussed in the meeting of Northern Zonal Council held at Srinagar on 20th October, 1997, when it was decided that a separate Conference of the Chief Ministers and concerned Ministers of the States of the Northern Zone could be convened at which Union Ministers and senior officers from the Ministries of Water Resources and Power could also be present. This conference could undertake indepth study of all the relevant issues and factors relating to sharing of water and power and evolve consensus on mutually agreeable parameters.

Accordingly, an official level meeting was convened by the Ministry of Power at Chandigarh on 16.9.98 which was attended among others by the representative of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan as well as Himachal Pradesh. However, because of the rigid and divergent stand taken by the concerned State Governments, no consensus could be possible. A separate conference of Chief Ministers is now contemplated to be held shortly. Any attempt would be made to resolving the issues in consultation with the concerned State Governments.

Surplus Power in the Eastern Region

259. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Eastern region is considered to be a surplus region in power generation;

(b) if so, the reasons for the surplus generation in this region;

(c) what is the total surplus; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to offset The surplus?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The surplus power availability in Eastern Region is due to inadequate growth in load and sub-transmission and distribution network as compared to growth in generation capacity.

(c) The estimated surplus of power in the peak and off-peak hours in the Eastern Region is of the order of 1500 MW and 3500 MW respectively.

(d) The following steps have been taken to offset the surplus in the Eastern Region:

(i) Institutional arrangements have been made to transfer power from Eastern Region to the State/UTs in the Southern, Western, Northern and North-Eastern regions to the extent possible.

(ii) Some inter-regional links are under construction for enhancing export of power.

(iii) Steps are also being taken for augmentation of transmission system within the region for load development as well as to maximise export of power from Eastern region to the other regions.

Cutting off Power Supply by NTPC to West Bengal and Bihar

260. SHRI GURUDAS" DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has cut off power supply to West Bengal and Bihar due to non-payment of dues;

(b) if so, the details of the dues owed to NTPC by different States; and

(c) the reasons for stopping the power supply only to these two states?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) resorted to regulation of power supply to West Bengal from Farakka Super Thermal Power Station on the

midnight of 10th and 11th October, 1998. No such regulation was undertaken in case of Bihar.

(b) The outstanding dues of NTPC as on 31.10.98 stood at Rs. 8883.70 crores including surcharge of Rs. 3234.85 crores. The details of the amounts due as on 30.9.1998 and 31.10.1998 from different States is given in the statement-I and Statement-II respectively, *(see* below)

(c) The outstanding dues of Bihar and West Bengal as on 30.9.1998 were the highest in terms of months of average billing which were 15.1 months and 12.9 months respectively. NTPC had made vigorous efforts to improve recoveries from Bihar and West Bengal and had meetings with top officials of their Electricity Boards and with the highest authorities in the State Governments. Union Minister of Power had also written to Chief Minister of Bihar and West Bengal for liquidating outstanding dues of NTPC. NTPC issued notices to Bihar State Electricity Board, West Bengal State Electricity Board, GRIDCO and Damodar Valley Corporation on 24.8.1998 for regulation of power supply with effect from 1.9.1998. This was deffered till 7.9.1998 and was extended for a further period upto 7.10.1998. However, no action was taken by WBSEB to liquidate its arrears. As a result, NTPC had to regulate power supply to West Bengal from its Farakka Station on the midnight of 10th and 11th October, 1998. No regulation was undertaken in case of Bihar as the State Government promised to pay Rs. 50 crores by 13.10.1998 and assured that the remaining amount would be settled in a definite time frame. BSES had paid Rs. 50 crores to NTPC on 13.10.1998 and a further sum of Rs. 20 crores was paid on 2.11.1998.

Statement-I

NTPC outstanding dues as on 30th September, 1998

(Rupees in Crores)

STPS/SEB	Outstanding As on Date	Surcharge Billed	Total Outstanding
Bihar SEB	899.22	491.17	1390.39
West Bengal SEB	537.72	178.22	715.39
Jammu & Kashmir	200.58	279.06	479.64
GfclDCO	440.69	59.94	500.63
DefthVidhyut Board	1175.14	544.33	1719.47
Damodar Valley Corporation	201.78	145.93	347.71
Uttar Pradesh SEB	1164.82	620.79	1785.61
Assam SEB	29.32	0.22	29.54
Andhra Pradesh SEB	168.79	93.38	262.17
Himachal Pradesh SEB	6.46	9.10	15.56
Gujarat EB	174.27	97.17	271.44
Karnataka EB	57.33	30.93	88.26
Madhya Pradesh EB	227.34	211.18	438.52
Pondicherry	8.25	0.67	8.92
Maharashtra SEB	164.13	89.53	253.66
Goa	11.04	1.59	12.63
Kerala SEB	28.77	21.63	49.80
Goa	4.84	0.36	5.20
Tamil Nadu EB	30.02	72.44	102.46

STPS/SEB	Outstanding As on Date	Surcharge Billed	Total Outstanding
Haryarta Vidyut Prasaran Nigam	20.56	228.19	248.75
Punjab SEB	19.98	7.67	27.65
Rajasthan SEB	18.25	56.15	74.40
Daman & Diu	0.48	0.95	1.43
Union Territory of Chandigarh	-0.21	0.00	-0.21
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-0.04	0.00	-0.04

Abbreviations:
STPS : Super Thermal Power Station
SEBs : State Electricity Boards
EB : Electricity Board
GRIDCO: Grid Corporation of Orissa Limited

Statement-II

NTPC outstanding dues as on 31st October, 1998

(Rupees in Crores)

STPS/SEB	Outstanding As on Date	Surcharge Billed	Total Outstanding
Bihar SEB	892.10	491.17	1383.27
West Bengal SEB	550.89	178.22	729.11
Jammu & Kashmir	220.30	279.06	479.36
GRIDCO	444.04	68.74	512.78
Delhi Vidhyut Board	1195.60	544.33	1739.93
Uttar Pradesh SEB	1164.82	620.79	1785.61
Damodar Valley Corporation	222.58	145.93	368.51
Assam SEB	29.33	1.08	30.41
Andhra Pradesh SEB	166.57	70.68	237.25
Himachal Pradesh SEB	5.08	9.10	14.18
Madhya Pradesh EB	235.91	210.83	446.74
Gujarat EB	172.43	96.76	269.19
Karnataka EB	53.53	33.56	87.09
Maharashtra SEB	165.99	89.53	255.52
Pondicherry	8.33	0.85	9.18
Kerala SEB	28.55	22.49	51.04
Goa (WR)	8.68	1.59	10.27
Goa (SR)	3.51	0.54	4.05
Tamil Nadu EB	30.93	64.75	95.68
Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam	21.12	228.19	249.31
Punjab SEB	17.92	7.67	25.59
Rajasthan SEB	17.50	56.15	73.65
Daman & Diu	0.92	0.95	1.87
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.22	0.00	0.22
Union Territory of Chandigarh	-043	0.00	-0.43

Abbreviations:

STPS .	: Super Thermal Power Station
SEBs	: State Electricity Boards
EB	: Electricity Board
GRIDCO	: Grid Corporation of Orissa Limited
WR	: Western Region
SR	: Southern Region

Private participation in Coal Sector

261. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increasing demand for fuel (coal) to generate electricity in the country;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to extend power sector at much faster rate to meet the increasing demand of electricity;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open coal sector for private sector participation; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM):Ja) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is an increasing demand for fuel (coal) to generate electricity in the country. The steps being taken/to be taken by the Government to expend power sector are (i) addition in new capacity through setting up of new power stations; (ii) adoption of energy conservation measures; and (iii) renovation and modernisation of old thermal and hydro power stations for improved electricity generation.

(c) and (d) Under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, coal mining was exclusively reserved for the public sector. By an amendment to the act in 1976, Government has inter-alia, allowed sub-lease for coal mining to private parties in isolated small pockets for captive mining not amenable to economic development and not requiring rail transport. In order to augment thermal power generation and to create additional thermal power capacity during the VIII Plan Period, Government allowed private participation in the power sector. The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 amended with effect from June, 1993 allowed coal mining for captive consumption for generation of power, washing of coal and other end uses to be notified by the Government from time to time. The June, 1993 amendment applies to both the public sector as well as private sector companies desiring to mini coal for captive consumption. The restriction of captive mining does not apply to the State-owned coal and mineral development undertakings like CIL, SCCL, Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Mineral Development Corporations of the State Governments. The Government has also allowed non-captive coal mining in February, 1997.

Concession to Foreign Investors in Power Sector

262. DR. MOHAN DABU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of investment needs in the power sector during the next 10 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have failed to mobilise adequate foreign investment in the Power sector during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government is considering to extend further concession to foreign in vestors in Power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The